

The Aftermath of a Car Bomb



(Above, Left) At the scene of a massive car bomb that exploded near a checkpoint to the International Zone in Baghdad Dec. 4, Staff Sgt. Gunnar Pedersen, a military police officer assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team and his dog Kim, examine a damaged vehicle looking for explosives.

(Above, Right) As American Soldiers and Iraqi National Guardsmen stand by, an Iraqi fireman extinguishes the flames from burning vehicles destroyed when a massive car bomb detonated on the Damascus Interchange near a checkpoint.

(Right) Army medical personnel from the 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment treat an Iraqi National Guardsman for injuries after the car bomb exploded near the International Zone. No multinational forces were injured or killed in the blast.



By Sgt. John Queen, 3rd BCT Public Affairs

Commandos and ING Make a Stand at the 'Alamo'

By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin
10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

CAMP AL TAHREER, Baghdad -- The spirit of the Alamo, synonymous with sacrifice and independence, is alive and well in Baghdad. Yet while Jim Bowie only had 186 Soldiers and his knife, this Alamo boasts an entire battalion of Iraqi National Guardsmen and American Soldiers advising them.

Forward Operations Base Hawk, dubbed "the Alamo" for its structural design, proximity to hostile forces and daily action and excitement, is the staging ground for the 303rd Iraqi National Guard Battalion. It is also the temporary home for the Commando Advisor Group, a group of 37 experienced Soldiers assembled from the 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Commandos) to advise and

support the Iraqi troops.

"We're responsible for training, mentoring and providing resources to the 303rd ING," said Maj. Ronnie Echelberger, CAG officer in charge. "They're the most well-developed ING battalion in Baghdad."

Like the majority of CAG Soldiers, Echelberger volunteered to work with the 303rd ING. Soldiers were selected based on experience and avail-

ability. Echelberger, previously the chief of current operations for 2nd BCT, served as an advisor to the Afghanistan National Army prior to serving in Iraq.

"It was one of the most rewarding experiences in my military career," he said. "I jumped at the opportunity to do it here. This is one of the most important things we are doing in Iraq. We can have such a

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303rd ING, 10th Mtn. Soldiers Hold Down Hawk

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tremendous positive impact on an organization's ability to function and support themselves. It is the thing that will allow us to leave Baghdad in secure hands."

For now, an area of responsibility in Baghdad is in the 303rd ING Soldiers' hands. They still have a ways to go to be completely autonomous, but Staff Sgt. Joseph Hohmann, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, said he's impressed with their progress.

"They're top notch," he said. "They can do their job. They're reliable and self-sufficient. They require very little supervision. As far as setting up (tactical control points) and searches, they are very proficient."

Soldiers from 303rd ING conduct the same operations American battalions do, with support from CAG Soldiers. They control their own area of operations in Baghdad like their American counterparts. They also conduct both independent operations as well as joint operations with multinational forces.

"We run patrols 24 hours (a day)," said the 303rd ING's battalion commander, who requested anonymity for security reasons. "We catch many insurgents and weapons ... kill many bad guys."

Soldiers from 303rd ING also provide a politically pragmatic task of searching



By Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin, 10th Mtn. Div. Public Affairs

Staff Sgt. Joseph Johansen, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, speaks with 303rd Iraqi National Guard Battalion Soldiers Nov. 21. Johansen provides logistical support for the Commando Advisor Group, supporting the Iraqi battalion.

mosques, a taboo for multinational forces.

"(A) U.S. presence in mosques is a sensitive issue," Echelberger said. "They do lots of mosque searches, so U.S. personnel don't have to enter."

Soldiers from the 2nd BCT have only been supporting 303rd ING Soldiers for a few weeks, but Echelberger said he feels comfortable with his Iraqi comrades and feels both sides are quickly gaining each others trust with every patrol.

"You have to have trust in order to develop and work

together," he said. "I'm very confident in their abilities. I'm not concerned about my safety with them."

Many ING soldiers feel the same. One soldier, known as "Lt. Mike" to his American allies, said he values the training and advice CAG Soldiers offer his Soldiers.

"They're nice guys," he said. "I'm learning a lot. Maj. Echelberger and Master Sgt. (Owen) Meehan (CAG non-commissioned officer in charge) help us a lot."

Meehan said he looks forward to helping them become a

stronger unit. He is impressed with the progress they have made, especially in such a short period of time. Soldiers from 303rd ING were recruited last May and have already shown to be worthy allies.

"As a (master sergeant) I learn something new every day," Meehan said. "We're asking young kids to do it much sooner. This isn't something that will happen overnight. The ING has come a long way. The 303rd is the best ING battalion we have. They are proud to stand next to us, as we are them."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

It's a gift.
innahaa hadeeya.

Tuesday
High: 63
Low: 45



Wednesday
High: 63
Low: 41



Thursday
High: 57
Low: 39



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

Great-Grandma Deploys to Iraq

LAWTON, Okla. (AP) -- A 72-year-old great-grandmother is preparing for deployment to the war zone in Iraq and will become one of the oldest Department of Defense civilian workers in the war zone. "I volunteered," said Lena Haddix of Lawton, who has five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. "I wanted to do something for the country, because I was always left behind taking care of the children." Haddix was a military wife from 1950 until 1979, and has worked at the Fort Sill Post Exchange, or PX, since 1977.

Is This Some Kind of Sick Joke?

KIRKLIN, Ind. (AP) -- A woman phoned the Clinton County Sheriff's Department shortly before 4 p.m. Sunday and said a baby had been left in a locked car in Kirklin, a town of 800 about 40 miles north of Indianapolis. The woman told the dispatcher she thought the child might not be breathing. Sheriff's deputies, firefighters and emergency medical technicians raced to the scene and used a special device to unlock the car's door, said Sheriff's Department Lt. Joe Mink. When officers opened the car door they discovered the supposed infant was a doll, Mink said. No further action was taken.

Brownlee Retires as Undersecretary of Army

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Under Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee officially retires Dec. 3 after more than 42 years of service to the nation - including more than 18 months as acting secretary of the Army.

Brownlee spent 22 years in uniform, retiring as an Army colonel. He then spent 18 years serving the Senate, much of that time as staff director of the Senate Committee on Armed Services under its former chairman, Sen. Strom Thurmond, and the current chairman, Sen. John Warner.

The length of time Brownlee served as acting secretary is unprecedented, said Secretary of the Army Dr. Frances J. Harvey.

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker hosted the full-honors ceremony for Brownlee at Fort Myer's



Army News Service

Under Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee covers his heart during the national anthem at his retirement ceremony at Summerall Field on Fort Myer, Va. Nov. 29.

Summerall Field Nov. 29.

"I know firsthand that there are few people who have stood as firmly on the side of our Soldiers as has Les Brownlee," Rumsfeld said. "And that has been the great good fortune of the United

States Army and our country."

Rumsfeld presented Brownlee the DoD Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Schoomaker presented Brownlee the Army Distinguished Civilian Service Medal.

150 Years Later: Seeking Justice for Nisqually Chief

PUYALLUP, Wash. (Seattle Times) -- The celebrated life of Chief Leschi ended with his body swinging from the gallows one wintry day in 1858.

Leschi, whose name is on a Seattle neighborhood and lakefront park, schools in Seattle and Puyallup, and a Fort Lewis combat-training center - was found guilty of murdering a soldier in the Washington Territorial Militia during an ambush.

But the conviction has long been controversial; many arguing the Nisqually tribal chief was

a victim of racial prejudice and scapegoating.

This week, nearly a century and a half after his death, Leschi will get a retrial.

On Friday, several judges, including two state Supreme Court justices, will revisit Leschi's conviction in an effort prompted by the tribe to place a postscript to their chief's story: not guilty.

"For generations, our elders, my grandparents, my great-uncle have talked about how this needs to be corrected," said Cynthia Iyall, a descendant of Leschi's sister. "We've been living with history and this is the time to correct it."

Nisqually leaders, along with historians, academics and Pierce County Executive John Ladenburg, will argue that Leschi was wrongfully convicted. The case, explained tribal attorney Bill Tobin, will be based primarily on the fact that Leschi, as leader of a sovereign nation, was a lawful combatant and therefore could not be charged with murder during a time of war.

The Pierce County Prosecutor's Office will represent the prosecution. The judgment will have no legal standing, so the proceedings are more akin to an historical inquiry.

But next week will be more than just a symbolic act for the Nisqually, who opted against seeking a pardon from the governor for Leschi. A pardon would have acknowledged Leschi's guilt, and many Indians believe the chief was nowhere near where the slaying of A. Benton Moses, the militiaman, occurred.



Seattle Times

Chief Leschi's portrait rests in a canoe in a museum built in his honor on the Nisqually Indian Reservation. The chief was hanged in 1858.

A Lovely Rose for the Horns

AUSTIN, Texas (*Austin American-Statesman*) -- When Texas senior Phillip Geiggar learned his team's postseason fate Sunday afternoon, he celebrated by zooming to the nearest grocery store for a dozen red souvenirs to pass out to his delighted Longhorn teammates.

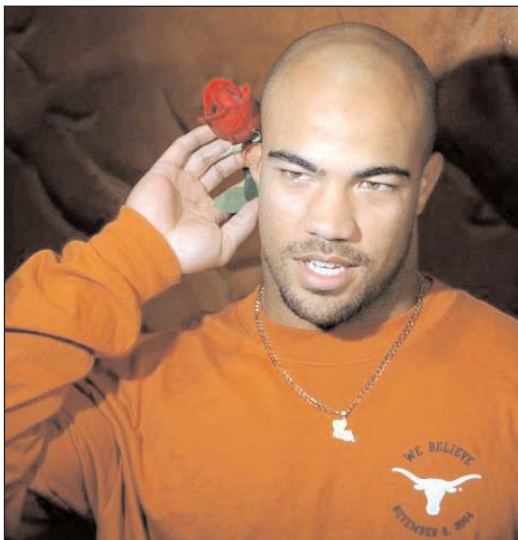
By late Sunday, the Texas free safety still was sporting a red rose tucked behind his right ear. The Longhorns, after all, were going to the 91st Rose Bowl, the oldest postseason game on the schedule and considered the most prestigious this side of the national championship.

Michigan, the Big Ten co-champion and No. 13 in the BCS, will be Texas' opponent, and it will be the first time these tradition-steeped programs have met.

"This is a tradition - anytime you go to a bowl, this is what you do," said Geiggar, who was still clutching two rosebuds he planned to freeze and save. "If we had gone to the Fiesta, I would have had me some (Tostitos) chips."

In order to gain a Bowl Championship Series spot - Texas' first ever - the Longhorns had to jump California into fourth place of the final BCS standings and receive one of two at-large invitations.

Texas Coach Mack Brown was en route to New York on Sunday afternoon for a National Football Foundation dinner and didn't know his team's BCS fate until he got off the plane and received a call from UT athletic director DeLoss



UT free safety Phillip Geiggar sports a red rose after learning that Texas will face Michigan in the Rose Bowl.

Dodds. He then was escorted to the ABC television studios in Manhattan to appear on the network's BCS announcement show.

"You'll never have a group that's more excited to come to Pasadena than the Texas Longhorns," Brown said.

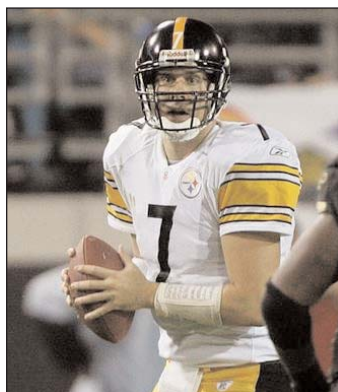
Rookie QB Drives Steelers to 10th Win

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) -- Ben Roethlisberger had plenty of help in pulling off the first last-minute drive of his career.

The rookie quarterback extended both his and Pittsburgh's winning streak to 10 games by engineering a late drive Sunday night to set up a 37-yard field goal by Jeff Reed with 18 seconds left that gave the Steelers a 17-16 win over Jacksonville.

The drive, the kind pulled off multiple times by stars like John Elway, Dan Marino and Joe Montana, covered 56 yards in six plays after Josh Scobee made a 36-yard field goal with 1:55 left that gave the Jaguars the lead.

"It's something special what he's doing," guard Alan Faneca said. "Is a rookie quarterback supposed to win a game like that on the road in a hostile environment in prime time? Probably not. That says a lot about him."



Pittsburgh Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger looks for a receiver during the third quarter against the Jacksonville Jaguars Sunday in Jacksonville, Fla. The Steelers won 17-16.

But the young quarterback, who set a record for most wins by a rookie quarterback, wasn't the only star of the victory.

Reed drilled the kick, of course. And the win by the

Steelers (10-1) was a testament to coach Bill Cowher's clock management. He used all three of his timeouts before the 2-minute warning as Jacksonville was driving for the go-ahead field goal, preserving plenty of time for his offense.

Then Roethlisberger was 3-of-4 for 39 yards on the winning drive, and the one incomplection was a spike after he let the clock run down to avoid giving the Jaguars much time for a march of their own.

He finished the night 14-of-17 for 221 yards and two touchdowns and had a passer rating of 158, just three-tenths of a point from perfection. He also rushed for 40 yards after three rather sluggish games in an otherwise brilliant rookie year.

"We had opportunities," Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio said. "One play, and we had a number of chances at a play, and we'd be a whole lot happier right now. It didn't happen."

In Brief

John, Six Others Honored in D.C.

WASHINGTON (*Reuters*)

-- Sir Elton John and Warren Beatty were among six entertainment legends honored for their lifetime contributions to American culture on Sunday. Australian soprano Dame Joan Sutherland, composer and conductor John Williams, and husband and wife actors, writers and producers Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee were also recipients of the 27th Annual Kennedy Center Honors. Each recipient was feted for their life-long contributions to American life and culture.



Stewart's Satire Earns Book of Year

LOS ANGELES (*Reuters*)

-- Political satirist Jon Stewart's mock look at a political science college textbook "America (the Book), a Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction," was named on Sunday the book of the year by Publishers Weekly, the trade publication of the book industry. The magazine said, in its issue to be published on Monday, that, "in a year defined by political polemics, it seems fitting that PW's Book of the Year be one in which the authors survey the entire political system and laugh." The book is written by Stewart, the host of the "The Daily Show" on comedy Central. It is currently number one on the New York Times best-seller list.